

NATIONAL HUNTING AND FISHING DAY

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 634) encouraging participation in hunting and fishing, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Hunting and Fishing Day and the efforts of hunters and fishermen toward the scientific management of wildlife and conservation of the natural environment, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 634

Whereas, since the beginning of the 20th century, hunters and fishermen of the United States have been among the most vocal supporters of the scientific management of wildlife and conservation of the natural environment;

Whereas President Theodore Roosevelt, who was himself a hunter, fisherman, and conservationist, called throughout his Presidency for laws to promote wildlife conservation and to provide lands for recreation;

Whereas, in June 1971, Senator Thomas McIntyre of New Hampshire and Representative Robert Sikes of Florida sponsored a joint resolution calling for the celebration of "National Hunting and Fishing Day" on the fourth Saturday of every September;

Whereas, in 2006, an estimated 42,500,000 individuals in the United States participated in hunting or fishing activities;

Whereas, in 2006, hunters and fishermen made a significant contribution to the economy of the United States by spending nearly \$75,000,000,000 on hunting and fishing activities;

Whereas hunters and fishermen recognize the importance of natural resources to the character, heritage, and future of the United States, and work to protect and conserve those resources; and

Whereas the fourth Saturday of September would be an appropriate day to as celebrate National Hunting and Fishing Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the House of Representatives that—

(A) there should be established a day known as National Hunting and Fishing Day; and

(B) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe such a day with appropriate programs and activities; and

(2) the House of Representatives—

(A) encourages participation in hunting and fishing; and

(B) commends the contributions of hunters and fishermen toward the scientific management of wildlife and conservation of the natural environment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill, as amended, under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

House Resolution 634, as amended, recognizes the contributions that American sportsmen and -women make in promoting wildlife conservation. The resolution calls on the President to issue a proclamation supporting National Hunting and Fishing Day.

There are an estimated 42.5 million Americans who hunt and fish, according to the most recent survey conducted by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Aside from supporting efforts to protect our natural environment, these men and women also contribute to our economy. They spent \$75 billion in 2006 on hunting and fishing activities.

I commend Congresswoman GILLIBRAND from New York for introducing this resolution, and I urge adoption of the resolution, as amended.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, let me thank and commend the gentleman from West Virginia for expeditiously bringing this bill to the floor. I rise in strong support of H. Res. 634, urging the establishment of a National Hunting and Fishing Day.

Since the founding of our Republic more than 230 years ago, hunting and fishing have been woven into the very fabric of our cultural heritage. There is no question that sportsmen are among the foremost supporters of sound wildlife management and the conservation of our natural resources.

In fact, without the billions of dollars that have been paid by sportsmen in excise taxes and duck stamp fees, it is likely that President Theodore Roosevelt's vision of a national wildlife refuge system would never have been achieved. Today, that system is comprised of more than 96 million acres, and more than 90 percent of those Federal lands are open to the 42 million Americans who hunt and fish.

It is appropriate that we designate a National Hunting and Fishing Day and that we celebrate on October 9, the 10th anniversary of the National Wildlife Improvement Act of 1997. This historic law, sponsored by the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) and myself, has the fundamental purpose of working to ensure that the American people have the finest refuge system in the world and the ability to hunt and fish on lands they largely purchased with their hard-earned dollars. It is achieving that goal that I believe is very, very important.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlelady from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND).

Mrs. GILLIBRAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of House Resolu-

tion 634, encouraging participation in hunting and fishing activities and supporting the goals and ideals of National Hunting and Fishing Day.

This past weekend Americans all over our great Nation celebrated National Hunting and Fishing Day.

In 1971, Senator Thomas McIntyre of New Hampshire and Representative Bob Sikes of Florida introduced a joint resolution authorizing National Hunting and Fishing Day on the fourth Saturday of September. In 1972, President Richard Nixon signed the first proclamation recognizing National Hunting and Fishing Day.

Thirty-five years later, thousands of events have taken place at hunting clubs and sportsmen's stores nationwide, bringing communities together in a grass-roots effort to promote outdoor activities and conservation.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that we, the United States Congress, should highlight these historic national pastimes by recognizing the contributions that hunters and fishermen have on America's rich culture, and encouraging participation in hunting and fishing as a way to promote family values, environmental conservation, and stewardship of our national resources.

Each year, over 45 million Americans take part in these traditions. Many of these sportsmen and -women live in my district in upstate New York. When I hold a town hall meeting in the Hudson Valley, constituents tell me about the economic impact that these sports bring to our rural communities. I also hear from them about the need for strong conservation policies so that they may continue the tradition of sportsmanship in their families.

Many of the folks that I have had the opportunity to speak with have lived all of their lives in New York's rural communities and view hunting and fishing not only as a pastime, but also a reflection of upstate New York's historic character.

One week from today, turkey season will begin in upstate New York. Every year my mother and brother are among the very first in the woods when the season begins. My mother takes great pride in her ability to shoot a turkey for our Thanksgiving dinner every year.

I now have the honor to represent over a dozen hunting wildlife management areas in three of New York State's environmental conservation regions. Nearly 700,000 New Yorkers participate in hunting and fishing each year and contribute extensively to our local and national economy through licensing, educational courses, and equipment purchases.

The promotion of hunting and fishing activities coincides with environmental stewardship. Hunters and fishermen were among the first to call for policies to protect our environment and, to this day, continue to advocate for land protection and preservation efforts to maintain our wildlife and environment for our future generations.

I want to take this opportunity to encourage all Americans to get into the outdoors and enjoy all that God has provided us.

I thank my colleagues for their support of this important resolution.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 634, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF BROOKGREEN GARDENS IN MURRELLS INLET, SOUTH CAROLINA

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 186) honoring the 75th anniversary of Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 186

Whereas 2007 is the 75th year that Brookgreen Gardens is open to the public;

Whereas in 1930 philanthropist Archer M. Huntington and his wife, sculptor Anna Hyatt Huntington, purchased 9,100 acres of South Carolina land that stretched from the Waccamaw River to the Atlantic Ocean;

Whereas within the tract of such land were the remnants of four rice plantations, including the Oaks, Springfield, Laurel Hill, and Brookgreen;

Whereas the Huntingtons created Brookgreen Gardens on a 300-acre parcel of land with massive live oak trees which were planted nearly two centuries earlier;

Whereas in 1932 the Huntingtons opened Brookgreen Gardens to the public and established it as both a nature preserve and a showcase for American figurative sculpture;

Whereas Brookgreen Gardens consists of two main components: the Huntington Sculpture Garden and the Lowcountry History and Wildlife Preserve;

Whereas more than 550 works by hundreds of American artists are displayed in the Huntington Sculpture Garden;

Whereas the Lowcountry History and Wildlife Preserve is rich with evidence of the great rice plantations of the 1800s, contains native and domestic animal exhibits, and is the only zoo accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums on the coast of either North Carolina or South Carolina; and

Whereas Brookgreen Gardens is designated a National Historic Landmark by the National Park Service; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress honors Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, on its 75th anniversary of being open to the public.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from West Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, House Concurrent Resolution 186, introduced by our colleague on the Natural Resources Committee, Representative HENRY BROWN, honors the 75th anniversary of Brookgreen Gardens in South Carolina.

When Brookgreen Gardens opened to the public in 1932, they were the first public sculpture gardens in the country. The gardens reflect the distinguished career of Anna Hyatt Huntington, a sculptor whose work spanned a period of 70 years.

On October 5, 1992, the Secretary of the Interior recognized the significance of the site by designating Brookgreen Gardens as a National Historic Landmark based on the more than 550 works of American artists displayed in the sculpture portion of the gardens.

Mr. Speaker, we support House Concurrent Resolution 186 and recommend its adoption by the House.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 186. House Concurrent Resolution 186 recognizes Brookgreen Gardens in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina, in honor of the 75th anniversary of its opening to the public.

In 1931, Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington founded Brookgreen Gardens to preserve the natural flora and fauna and to display objects of art within that natural setting.

Today, Brookgreen Gardens is a National Historic Landmark and contains more than 550 works from American artists in what was the country's first public sculpture garden.

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The Gardens also offer a nature and historical preserve, small zoo, and a nature exhibition center. To honor the 1932 opening of the Brookgreen Gardens to the public, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Additionally, I would like to recognize the strong efforts of Congressman HENRY BROWN for his persistence and diligent work in bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 186 which honors the 75th anniversary of Brookgreen Gardens, one of the most beautiful places in coastal South Carolina.

In 1931, Archer and Anna Hyatt Huntington founded Brookgreen Gardens to preserve the native flora and fauna of coastal South Carolina and to display objects of art within that

natural setting. Today, Brookgreen Gardens is a National Historic Landmark and contains more than 550 works from American artists in what was the country's first public sculpture garden.

Brookgreen Gardens also offers a nature and historical preserve; it also includes a small zoo that is accredited by American Zoo and Aquarium Association, and a nature exhibition center. The natural exhibition center and zoo exhibit educate visitors on the unique species and issues of coastal South Carolina.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the rest of my colleagues from the South Carolina delegation. They have shown unity in celebrating the 75th anniversary of Brookgreen Gardens by unanimously agreeing to be cosponsors of this resolution.

To honor the 1932 opening of Brookgreen Gardens to the public, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 186.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING ALL HUNTERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES FOR THEIR CONTINUED COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 193) recognizing all hunters across the United States for their continued commitment to safety.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 193

Whereas in 2006 there were over 16,000,000 hunters in the United States of which only .0013 percent incurred an injury during the past hunting season;

Whereas in 2006 this injury rate was lower than many other forms of recreation;

Whereas there are 70,000 hunter education instructors teaching hunter safety, ethics, and conservation to approximately 750,000 students successfully each year;

Whereas State fish and game agencies began offering hunter safety programs in 1949, and since then, more than 35,000,000 people have been certified;

Whereas much of the success of hunter safety can be contributed to hunter education training and the role of responsible hunters in the field;

Whereas Congress commends Pennsylvania hunters for setting a new State safety record in 2006;

Whereas hunters continue year after year to improve their safety record; and

Whereas hunters are the vital link in preserving and maintaining the great natural